

Laurentian University suffers cutbacks

SUDBURY (CUP) - Despite the star-gazings of Edgar Benson that predict another economic boom-year for Canada, such does not seem to be the case in Sudbury, for as goes the International Nickel Company so goes the city of Sudbury, and Laurentian University.

The University is one of

the most 'working class' universities in Canada, and consequently has one of the highest student loan proportions in the country: high loans despite the abundance of jobs within the area. But this year things promise to become even bleaker for the financially plagued institution.

INCO will shut down this summer for an unprecedented three-week holiday period, as it did on the Christmas and New Year's weekends. In addition, the company will not hire any students for the summer period. Last year some 1800 were employed for the summer, and of that number

approximately one third were attending Laurentian.

Coupled with this is the fact that the 20,000 member local of the United Steelworkers of America will be renegotiating a three-year contract with the company: an activity usually ending a prolonged strike.

Many feel that this announcement has been the death-knell for the rather small institution, already in trouble because of a lower enrollment than for the 1970-71 term.

The enrollment drop has caused cuts in various academic and non-academic programmes. The Humanities section was dealt the most severe blow with a cut of faculty up to 6, and the compression or outright elimination of some 23 courses. English was especially

hit hard and a planned graduate course has been eliminated.

The School of Social Work is in an uproar because, of 40 second year students, only 8 will be accepted into year three of the four-year degree course. What can be expected concerning the 100 first-year students is unknown.

In non-academic areas perhaps the cut causing the most vociferous comment was the cancellation of activity in 5 intercollegiate sports. Largest of these was the football team whose win record was viewed by many observers as the sole criterion for its cut. The team has won slightly less than one game on an average per season since its inception.

Library troubles in Mtl

MONTREAL (CUPI) - Montreal's Point St. Charles Peoples' Library has been in operation for seven months and for most of its short life it has been struggling for funds to keep itself alive.

The library, located in one of the city's poorest sections, has finally received a local initiatives grant from the Canadian government in an undisclosed amount, but its problems may not be over yet.

At present, the library's two full time employees receive no salaries. Both are on welfare as are the library's five or six other part time helpers. For a while some of the part timers were being paid \$40 a week, enabling them to claim welfare and keep the salary as well.

The library has not been able to buy new books and most of its 10,000 volumes were donated by or collected from universities, libraries and the public last fall.

At that time, Library organizers submitted a proposal for a grant to the Québec government but were referred to the City of Montreal. City officials promised an answer "very soon" but nothing has been heard

from them since September. The proposal asked for \$18,000 to cover rental of an office, salaries of \$100 a week for full time employees, and the purchase of new books.

The city also showed reluctance in giving the library a permit, claiming their building was a fire-trap.

A \$600 Opportunities for Youth grant enabled the library to begin operations in an area of the city where the municipal libraries are too far away and expensive for the residents and where the school libraries lack the adequate reverence material taken for granted in the wealthier sections of Montreal.

"When we first opened, people came in with absolutely no idea of what a library was", said Joe Bavota, one of the organizers.

He expects no help from the city because it is working with voluntary labour and the city thinks donations are paying the rent. Further, unless it gets enough money to cover operating costs, it may be turned over the Company of

U of A projects frozen

EDMONTON (CUP) - In Alberta, the Progressive Conservative government, elected last summer, has ordered a halt to planning on all University of Alberta construction projects where actual construction has not begun.

The freeze will likely last at least until the legislature convenes in March.

The government move indefinitely postpones 5 construction projects at the Edmonton campus, and orders "status reports" be compiled by the university on some 7 more projects.

Most of these projects were born in the optimistic days of the 1960's, when U of A enrollment was spiraling by 12 per cent annually. However, minimal enrollment increases in the last two years have cast into considerable doubt university projections that enrollment, currently around 18,500 would

reach 25,000 by the mid-seventies.

U of A Planning and Development Vice-president W.D. Neal is "very concerned about the matter and would like to see some action on it soon".

He worries that re-engaging the planning mechanism for projects will be expensive and fears the financial and legal implications should projects already underway be cancelled; or should U of A's annual \$10 million capital expenditures for renovations, improvements and equipment be cut back.

Dr. Neal also claims that the university, despite the under-enrollment, is short of space. "We're currently 5 hundred thousand square feet short of floor space, and if there are long delays in approval of these projects, it could seriously hurt our planning for the rest of the seventies."

Young Canadians or to the City of Montreal and taken

out of the control of the Point St. Charles residents. The grant from the Canadian government may also be inadequate since twelve people applied but only six may receive the grant.

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